MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 OCTOBER 1982

Lebanon

Al-Jumayyil in Europe -- After meeting in Paris with Francois Mitterrand, President Amin al-Jumayyil said his talks with the French president made him optimistic about Lebanon's future, Beirut radio reported. Al-Jumayyil subsequently said in a news conference carried by the radio that he and Mitterrand have agreed to increase the size of the multinational force and widen its jurisdiction; they also decided to give UNIFIL in southern Lebanon greater importance and strength. UNIFIL will be called upon to assume additional responsibilities and to deploy over large parts of Lebanese territory, he added.

Al-Jumayyil reitereated his demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Palestinians, Syrians and Israelis and asserted that Lebanon will soon recover its independence, sovereignty and its role in serving peace. This will not be an artificial peace which "they" sometimes want to impose on Lebanon, he added. Regarding financial aid to help rebuild his country, Al-Jumayyil said that Lebanon is seeking investment funds from friendly countries and that large Lebanese consortiums have decided to help. According to AFP, President Mitterrand pledged political, economic and military aid to Lebanon.

During the press conference, Al-Jumayyil also noted the presence at his side of Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and said that despite their political differences, he and Junblatt agree on the need to protect democracy and liberty in Lebanon. AFP said the two men marked their reconciliation by shaking hands.

President al-Jumayyil is due to arrive in Italy on 21 October for the last phase of his foreign tour, Beirut radio noted. Meanwhile, ANSA reported that a bomb explosion damaged the Lebanese Embassy in Rome. Police are searching for two women seen leaving the building shortly before the blast.

Israeli, Syrian Comment on Al-Jumayyil -- There is growing disappointment in Jerusalem over President al-Jumayyil's rejection of Israel's proposals for security arrangements, Jerusalem radio reported. Al-Jumayyil told U.S. leaders that the IDF should leave Lebanon before the Syrians and that he is unwilling to sign an agreement with Israel over security arrangements, the radio said. In remarks broadcast by the radio, Israeli Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said Al-Jumayyil is committing a "grave mistake" by turning his back on Israel.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio praised Al-Jumayyil for foiling Israeli attempts to exploit its occupation to achieve political and military gains.

Palestinian Camps -- In a message to Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, the PLO has demanded the reconstruction of Palestinian camps destroyed during the Israeli invasion and the release of Palestinians recently detained by the Lebanese Army, MENA reported. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio noted that the Lebanese authorities are preventing the Israeli commission of inquiry into the Beirut massacres from entering the Sabra and Shatila camps.

PLO

Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told TAP after a meeting with a Tunisian official that the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation detracts from the first step of forming an independent Palestinian state, Tunis radio reported. He stated that Arab countries should pressure the United States into recognizing Palestinian rights and strongly criticized the U.S. refusal to meet a PLO member. In another development, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received PFLP leader George Habash, Damascus radio noted.

After meeting with Saudi King Fahd in Jidda, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat went to Abu Dhabi, according to SPA and WAKH.

Egypt on Relations With Israel

At a press conference on 20 October between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and visiting Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, carried by Cairo radio, Mubarak denied any knowledge of plans by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to invade the Sinai if Egypt had broken diplomatic relations with Israel during the Lebanese crisis -- plans which were alleged to exist by Israeli opposition leader Peres. Mubarak stressed that he hoped this threat was untrue and explained that Egypt withdrew its ambassador to Israel for consultations as a sign of "dissatisfaction" with the developments in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah told the Doha paper AR-RAYAH that Israel would "not dare" take military action against Egypt anyway because the "price would be high."

Libya

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will soon visit the PRC, thus marking a reconciliation between Libya and China, AFP reported citing a diplomatic source.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces stopped an attempted Iraqi offensive in the western battle sector on 19 October and Iranian artillery damaged Iraqi oil installations, an Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio asserted. Meanwhile, an Iraqi communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed 31 Iranians were killed in the central sector.

Iran

During a meeting between Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his visiting Turkish counterpart Ilter Turkmen, a revised air transport agreement was signed and Velayati said in response to Turkey's call for an end to the Iran-Iraq war that this is an "imposed" war and the fighting by Iran is in "legitimate defense," IRNA reported.

In another development, also according to IRNA, President 'Ali Khamene'i revealed after a Cabinet meeting that ministerial changes are imminent.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 204 *21 October 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

AFP: Rebel Leader Appeals to World for Aid C 1
Army Brigadier, Soviet Advisers Killed in Paktia [AFP] C 1
Briefs: Delegation to FAO Conference C 1

BANGLADESH

Police Arrest Supreme Court Advocates D 1
Official Change in Spelling of Dacca Reported D 1
[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 6 Oct]

INDIA

Gandhi Speaks on Nuclear Fuel Supply Talks E 1
Delhi 'Spotlight' on Relations With Pakistan E 1

PAKISTAN

UN Envoy on Election to Security Council Seat F 1
Body of MiG Pilot Handed Over to Afghan Consul F 1
Al-Zulfiqar Headquarters Moved From Kabul F 1
Police Seize Explosives, Arrest Retired Colonel F 1
[JANG 14 Oct]

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Government Fires 18 Senior Zonal Judges [AFP] G 1

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Reelected President 20 October [AFP] G 1
Postelection State of Emergency Declared G 2
New Trade Agreement Signed With PRC G 2
Briefs: EC Food Aid Proposal; Asian Development Bank Aid; Canadian Grants G 2

IRAN

Council of Experts Elections To Be Held 10 Dec I 1
Khamene'i: Cabinet Changes To Take Place Soon I 1
Musavi Summarizes Talks With DPRK Delegation I 2
Reportage on Turkish Foreign Minister's Visit I 3
Talks With Khamene'i I 3
Meeting With Velayati I 3
Transportation Agreement I 4
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,085 I 4
Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Dehloran 19 October I 5
Border Units Organized To Combat Smugglers I 5
9 Villages 'Purged'; 60 'Insurgents' Killed I 6
Afghan Rebels Kill 40 Soviet Soldiers in Herat I 6
Soviet Soldier on Use of Chemical Weapons I 6

AFP: REBEL LEADER APPEALS TO WORLD FOR AID

BK210914 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 21 Oct 82

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 21 (AFP) -- Rebel chief Ahmad Masood has appealed to the "world community" to aid Afghans "faced with a starvation" in the Panjsher Valley north of Kabul following a new Afghan-Soviet offensive said to have wrought havoc.

According to Mr. Masood, in a letter which reached this Pakistani capital today, the offensive last month had "destroyed houses, roads and farms, and burnt agricultural products," forcing inhabitants to take refuge elsewhere.

Observers noted that the appeal was the first of its kind from Mr. Masoon, an engineer and "commander" in the strategic valley, symbolic bastion of anti-Soviet Afghan rebellion.

It also led some observers to conclude that the September offensive, the sixth by the Soviet soldiers and planes, had profoundly disorganised life in the valley, weakening logistic support for the mujahidin fighters.

According to a French doctor and traveller who were in the valley in September, the local population was sorely tried by massive air attacks.

The destruction of their villages forced them to seek refuge outside the valley for the first time since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, these witnesses said.

ARMY BRIGADIER, SOVIET ADVISERS KILLED IN PAKTIA

BK201628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 20 (AFP) -- An Afghan Army brigadier along with his Soviet advisers and a militia commander died in recent heavy fighting in Khost, capital of Paktia Province, the Afghan rebel mouthpiece news agency Afghan Press today reported.

Brigadier Salim Shah, who was also deputy commander in the area, died on October 1 along with two unidentified Soviet advisers when their jeep was blasted by a mine close to the Naway Kot military post, the agency said.

Paktia was reportedly the scene of fierce clashes early this month by diplomatic sources and also travellers arriving from Pakistan. [sentence as received]

The agency said the Afghan brigadier and the Russian officers died instantly while 13 militiamen including their commander, Abdul Rahim, were killed in a second encounter the following day when government forces launched a big sweep of the area.

At least 10 civilians were arrested while a number of houses were destroyed in retaliation for the killing of the Afghan officer and the two advisers, it said. Many people, anticipating reprisals, fled into the mountains or crossed over to Pakistan, the report said.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO FAO CONFERENCE -- Dr 'Abdol Ghaffar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reform, left for Nicosia today leading a delegation to the 13th regional conference of the FAO, which is due to be held in Nicosia next week. The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Mohammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation, deputy ministers and some senior staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Oct 82 LD]

POLICE ARREST SUPREME COURT ADVOCATES

BK171618 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 82

[Text] In Dacca today the metropolitan police arrested and sent to custody some advocates of the Supreme Court on charges of violation of regulation No 14, 15 and 17 of Martial Law Regulation No 1, 1982. An official handout issued in Dacca today said investigations into the (?case) of these offenders are being carried out. The accused persons are likely to be produced before martial law court for trial of the case.

OFFICIAL CHANGE IN SPELLING OF DACCA REPORTED

BK161522 Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] The name of the Bangladesh capital in English will henceforth be spelt as "Dhaka" instead of Dacca reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Council of Ministers held on Monday night with the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H. M. Ershad in the chair.

The changed spelling of the name of the capital in English is phonetically closer to the Bangla pronunciation.

GANDHI SPEAKS ON NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY TALKS

BK210907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 82

[Text] The prime minister assured the Rajya Sabha that the national interest would be protected during the talks with France on the supply of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur atomic powerplant. Speaking during question time, Mrs Gandhi said India has withstood international pressure on this issue in the past and will continue to do so.

Replying to a supplementary, she said it is not in the interest of the country to discuss this matter at this stage when negotiations are going on. In reply to another supplementary, Mrs Gandhi said that the 1963 Indo-American agreement for the supply of nuclear fuel for the Tarapur plant will be automatically terminated on expiry of its term.

Earlier, Minister for Science and Technology C.P.N. Singh informed the house that the Tarapur plant has been operating satisfactorily. The Rajasthan atomic power station has been facing problems from time to time.

DELHI 'SPOTLIGHT' ON RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK201400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Spotlight: "On Relations Between India and Pakistan" by Inder Malhotra, resident editor, TIMES OF INDIA, New Delhi]

[Text] This country's quest for better relations with Pakistan is a continuous one. Often it is a fitful exercise and sometimes it can be frustrating, for there are too many ups and downs in it. But it is an eminently worthwhile pursuit which can under no circumstances be given up. Happily, the two neighbors seem to be entering once again a relaxed phase in their relationship.

General Ziaul Haq's decision to make a brief stopover in Delhi on 1 November for talks with Mrs Gandhi underscores this. As the spokesman of the Foreign Office has so aptly put it: The Pakistani president's suggestion and Indian prime minister's prompt and positive response to it are indicative of a high degree of normalcy in Indo-Pakistani relations.

No Pakistani head of state has visited India since June 1972, when the late Bhutto came for the negotiations that led to the Simla Agreement. Before that President Ayub Khan had come in 1960. He was then, like General Zia today, both head of state and chief martial law administrator. The opportunity for a summit-level dialogue is as welcome as the general improvement in the atmosphere prevailing between the two countries. But it will be unrealistic to expect anything spectacular from the summit. Basic issues, which have remained outstanding all these years, cannot be resolved as a result of a brief discussion between Mrs Gandhi and General Zia.

The two leaders had last met at Salisbury at the time of Zimbabwe's independence celebrations and yet how many difficulties have bedevilled the two countries between then and now.

India's attitude toward its second largest neighbor, Pakistan, has been succinctly summed up by Mrs Gandhi in an interview to a Pakistani newspaper, AMAN, which interestingly means peace. In it she has said that India faces no danger from Pakistan and similarly Pakistan ought not to harbor any fear of India. What is more, she has gone out of her way to emphasize that a strong and stable Pakistan is of great interest to India. While affirming this, she has raised a pertinent point which cannot be whisked away or brushed under the carpet. The point is rather simple but it has, unfortunately, been covered by a thick overlay of emotion, propaganda, half-truth and downright falsehood. It, therefore, needs to be stated clearly, even bluntly.

No one in this country questions Pakistan's right to acquire arms for self-defense, but there is such a thing as disproportionately excessive spending on armaments. Opinions on what is excessive might differ, but there are objective criteria by which the issue can be judged.

Speaking very broadly, anything done by Pakistan which disturbs the balance of power in the subcontinent cannot but be a source of discord, for to restore the balance India has to take countermeasures, make new acquisitions or start new production lines. This, inevitably, adds to economic burdens at a time when this country's effort is to maximize its outlay on development. The acquisition of the F-16, the most advanced strike aircraft in existence, by Pakistan from the United States is a step which not only upsets the power balance and introduces into the subcontinent a new level of technology of aerial warfare, it also causes other complications. For, the acquisition of the F-16 is not a straight defense purchase like the buying by Pakistan of Mirages III or V or (Kortal) missile from France in the past.

The F-16's are being given to Pakistan by the United States as part of a $3.2-billion package of economic aid and military credit sales and this package is in pursuance of what the Americans call a strategic consensus, under which Pakistan is expected to play the role of a frontline state in America's conflict with the USSR, especially over Afghanistan. In other words, not only is the balance of power in the subcontinent being disturbed but the superpower rivalries are once again being imported into the region with a vengeance. This is a distressing change in the situation since the subcontinent had started settling down to a natural and undisturbed balance after the signing of the Simla Agreement in July 1972.

Let me explain the point another way, especially to Pakistani friends. In 1971, as a result of the liberation of Bangladesh, Pakistan's defense responsibilities were reduced to half and yet during the years 1971 to 1978 -- that is to say, long before the Afghan crisis erupted -- Pakistan's Armed Forces have been nearly doubled. This, however, was an expansion without the revival of the U.S.-Pakistan military relationship and therefore qualitatively different from what is going on now. Against this backdrop, a careful look at military spending by India and Pakistan as well as on their respective military strengths will be instructive. According to independent international sources, Pakistan's per capita expenditure on defense has gone up from $17 in 1980 to $21 in 1981. The comparable Indian figure is $8 in each of the 2 years.

As a proportion of the gross national product [GNP], Pakistan has spent considerably more than this country each year and every year. For instance, in 1972 Pakistan spent 6.8 percent of the GNP on defense; India 3.5 percent. The latest available figures for 1979 are: Pakistan 5.1 percent; India 3.4 percent. These figures speak for themselves and while looking at them allowance has to be made for two crucial realities: first, that Pakistani budget figures do not tell the whole story. There can be no other explanation for the fact that Pakistan maintains an army which is 40 percent of the Indian Army, but claims to spend on it only 30 percent of the Indian Army outlay. What makes this claim particularly absurd is that the pay of both officers and men is considerably higher in Pakistan than that of the army personnel here. Secondly, Bhutto has practically admitted in his last testament that the military aid from China and some Islamic countries is not shown in the Pakistani budget, which in any case has one single entry on defense giving fewest possible details. It is significant that the first six F-16's which Pakistan is buying outright before the U.S. Congress authorizes the necessary credits are being paid for not from its own budget but directly by Saudi Arabia. It has been necessary to speak on this particular subject at some length because an enormous amount of misinformation has been spread on it by interested parties. Also, without an agreement on not disturbing the balance of power in the subcontinent, there can be no durable understanding between the two countries.

Ministers and officials of India and Pakistan had been conferring for quite some time. The three major items on their agenda are: Pakistan's proposal for a nonaggression or no-war pact, the Indian offer of a treaty of a joint commission of the type that Bangladesh has accepted enthusiastically only the other day.

Mrs Gandhi and General Zia, during their brief meetings, can take up these issues only cursorily, but they can surely impart greater impetus to the talks at ministerial and official levels. Also, they can perhaps take steps to bring about the long delayed and much needed expansion of cultural, commercial and people-to-people exchanges between India and Pakistan.

UN ENVOY ON ELECTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT

BK2201042 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Pakistan has pledged to work ceaselessly to strengthen the UN role in resolving the world's problems. This was stated by Pakistani Ambassador to the United Nations S. Shahnawaz after Pakistan's unopposed selection for the Asian seat of the Security Council yesterday. He said Pakistan's success would enable it to contribute toward strengthening the cause of peace and security in the world. It reflected Pakistan's growing stature in the international community and the nonaligned character of its policies.

BODY OF MIG PILOT HANDED OVER TO AFGHAN CONSUL

BK191026 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] The dead body of the Afghan pilot, whose MiG-17 crash landed near Chaman yesterday, was handed over to the Afghan consul in Quetta this afternoon by Pakistani authorities.

AL-ZULFIQAR HEADQUARTERS MOVED FROM KABUL

BK111113 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Oct 82

[Text] According to the latest information received from Afghanistan, it has now been confirmed that the headquarters of the terrorist organization Al-Zulfiqar is being shifted from Kabul to some other place in Afghanistan. Pakistan Press International, quoting knowledgeable sources in Kabul, says the information reveals that the decision to shift the headquarters of this organization from Kabul has been taken at the behest of the Karmal regime as protection and security of these terrorists was becoming a problem following growing pressure of the mujahidin in the Afghan capital.

The source maintained that the Karmal regime has been forced to move the Al-Zulfiqar headquarters to some most safer place in Afghanistan. However, the new location of the organization is being kept secret for the time being. The sources gave no credence to the report that the organization's headquarters is shifting outside Afghanistan.

POLICE SEIZE EXPLOSIVES, ARREST RETIRED COLONEL

GF191002 Lahore JANG in Urdu 14 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, 13 Oct (JANG correspondent) -- The police criminal branch today searched a car at Garhi Sardar coming from Rawalpindi and captured a large quantity of dynamite and other contraband material being carried in the car. The police also arrested a retired army colonel and his wife traveling in the car. A case has been registered against the couple under the explosives act.

According to details, the police set up a checkpost on the grand trunk road at Garhi Sardar today and searched a passing car in which retired Army Colonel Shawkat Husain Khattak and his wife Shaheen were traveling. The police discovered 16 dynamite sticks, 4,500 detonators and 38 fuses in the car. Both the accused later appeared before Magistrate Abdul Qadir Khan where the police received a 3-day physical remand of the retired colonel while his wife was confined to the local jail pending trial.

NEPAL

GOVERNMENT FIRES 18 SENIOR ZONAL JUDGES

BK091507 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 9 Oct 82

[Text] Katmandu, Oct. 9 (AFP) -- Some 18 senior zonal judges of class one rank in the judicial service have been purged by the Nepalese Government, officials announced here today.

Although no specific charges were served against the judges, who were all dismissed from service, it is widely believed that they were involved in corruption and showed gross negligence of their "sincere responsibilities." An official source said the drastic action against the 18 judges was taken by the government in a bid to make the judicial services "prompt and honest."

Officials also announced that 14 district court judges had been upgraded. Most of those who were promoted were young, educated men while most of the purged judges were unqualified and had been appointed purely on their length of service in the judicial field.

Most of the judges who were given forced retirement had amassed wealth and owned landed property. The Nepalese Government is likely to make an assessment of their property in order to take further punitive action.

Meanwhile, the royal judicial reforms commission headed by former Ambassador to London and Supreme Court Justic Iswor Raj Mishra, has called upon all the Nepalese to make suggestions to the commission. The commission formed by the king has been asked to conduct studies on the kind of reforms deemed necessary in the judiciary and the judicial system and present its suggestions to him for reforms to be made.

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE REELECTED PRESIDENT 20 OCTOBER

BK210321 Hong Kong AFP in English 0307 GMT 21 Oct 82

[Text] Colombo, Oct. 21 (AFP) -- Junius Jayewardene was re-elected president of Sri Lanka today, taking 55-60 percent of the vote, according to results received electronically in the press center here today.

According to previous reports reaching the center, the 76-year-old incumbent had led his five election rivals in 21 of 22 districts in his bid to win a new six-year term in office. The only holdout was the Jaffna District, a Tamil bastion in the north, where autonomist sentiment among members of the ethnic minority is strong and an abstention campaign was launched.

Although figures received by computers in the press center here gave the victory to Mr. Jayewardene, who swept to power with his United National Party in 1977 legislative elections, official results were available from only two provincial districts.

These results showed Mr. Jayewardene leading his nearest rival, Hector Kobbekaduwa of the Marxist Sri Lanka Freedom Party, by 130,000 votes. Final results were expected to be made known later today.

In central Colombo, Mr. Jayewardene won 70,000 votes to 21,000 for Mr. Kobbekaduwa, according to computer results.

The candidate of the revolutionary left, Rohana Wjeweera, took seven percent of the vote and the two Trotskyite candidates, Colvin de Silva and Vasudeva Nanayakkara, garnered less than one percent, according to the computers.

The election, Sri Lanka's first popular vote for president since independence in 1948, featured a high turnout among the 8.1-million-strong electorate, sources said.

POSTELECTION STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED

BK201554 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] A state of emergency has been declared throughout the country to maintain law and order as the aftermath of today's presidential election. A government communique said there have been some reports of incidents of violence [words indistinct]. The communique added that in the interest of maintaining law and order and to protect the public from any outbreak of violence besides any harm to persons and damage to property, the president has declared an emergency under the Public Security Act [words indistinct].

NEW TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH PRC

BK171308 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Oct 82

[Text] Sri Lanka and China have signed a new trade protocol doing away with the old barter system. This will come into operation on the 1st of January next year. The agreement provides for cash trading in a wide range of goods and replaces the traditional rubber-for-rice barter deal. Under this agreement, (both) countries expect the overall trade to rise sharply from the present 1 billion rupees to 1.6 billion rupees during 1983. This agreement is the seventh of its kind between the two countries.

BRIEFS

EC FOOD AID PROPOSAL -- The European Commission said yesterday that it proposed sending emergency food aid to Sri Lanka for 400,000 families affected by a severe drought. Rice production in the northeast of the country had been badly hit by a 2-year drought and the government had requested the aid for about 2 million people in the worst affected areas. The European Commission said that it proposed sending 10,000 tons of cereals worth more than $2 million to the areas subject to approval by the Common Market's 10 governments. [Text] [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Sep 82 BK]

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AID -- A program will be implemented to increase the production of graphite by threefold. The graphite industry is to be modernized with an estimated cost of 380 million rupees. The Asian Development Bank will be providing 274 million rupees. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Oct 82 BK]

CANADIAN GRANTS -- Four agreements providing for Canadian grants totalling $15.6 million were signed on 18 October in the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Under one of the agreements Canada will provide Sri Lanka with $10-million-worth of wheat grains as food aid for 1982-83. The agreements were signed by the high commissioner for Canada and the secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Planning on behalf of their respective governments. [Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 18 Oct 82 BK]

COUNCIL OF EXPERTS ELECTIONS TO BE HELD 10 DEC

LD202020 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri gave a press, radio and television conference this evening to answer questions on the holding of the Council of Experts elections and the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections. We draw your attention to our colleague's interview with the interior minister:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Nateq-Nuri, considering the Council of Guardians' readiness to hold Council of Experts' elections and the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections, could you tell us what measures the Interior Ministry will take and when these elections will be held?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. After the Council of Guardians expressed its readiness for the elections and appointed its supervisory councils for all Iranian cities, in accordance with the regulations for conducting elections to the Council of Experts, which have been approved by the honorable Council of Guardians, we were to write a letter to the imam asking his eminence for orders so that if his eminence issued a decree for the Council of Experts' elections to be held, we would go ahead. Fortunately, we did this and his eminence the imam has issued the necessary decree. Yesterday, the honorable Council of Guardians expressed its readiness and today we sent a letter to the imam asking his eminence to issue the required decree if his eminence found it proper. On the bottom of the letter sent to his eminence the imam graciously wrote this short and interesting sentence: It is agreed; God willing, it will be blessed. His eminence gave his permission.

We, the Interior Ministry, were required to make the announcement of election dates within 10 days of the imam granting his permission. Because of the Interior Ministry's readiness for the holding of elections, today I can hereby announce that -- God willing -- the Council of Experts' elections and the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections will be held throughout the country on Friday, 10 December.

[Question] The issue of the Islamic Consultative Assembly byelections is clear; could you possibly give some explanations about the Council of Experts' elections and the reason for these elections?

[Answer] Regarding the Council of Experts: In accordance with the principles of our Constitution -- Principles No 5, 107 and 108 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- a group must be elected as experts in order to prepare for choosing the leader of the revolution or the leadership council. This is the main role given to the experts by the Constitution. From time to time it is asked -- by individuals, clergymen, people -- what role do the experts play and why must they be elected? The answer is: This is a task entrusted to us by the Constitution; a group must be elected as experts. This council's term is 8 years. They must hold sessions to discuss the leadership issue or the leadership council and then to choose and appoint the leader or possibly the leadership council. [end recording]

KHAMENE'I: CABINET CHANGES TO TAKE PLACE SOON

LD201026 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20 (IRNA) -- President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today said that the changes in the Cabinet will take place soon and added that some new ministers have already been selected and will be introduced to the Majlis.

The president was talking to the press following a Cabinet meeting early in the morning today.

He said that the situation on the front is satisfactory and the Islamic combatants are maintaining complete superiority upon the enemy.

President Khamene'i said that one of the main topics taken up by the Cabinet during its today's session w[illegible]he problem concerning with the distribution of the essential goods.

He said that a final decision will soon be taken on the issue for the implementation of a comprehensive plan for the distribution of the essential goods across the country.

MUSAVI SUMMARIZES TALKS WITH DPRK DELEGATION

LD201220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] After today's session of the Cabinet, Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, talking about the results of his discussions with the chairman of DPRK People's Assembly, said:

In our meetings with the North Korean delegation, the current political and economic issues concerning the two countries were discussed. In our political discussions, we also explained our "neither East nor West" position to them and described the reasons for our opposition to the presence of the superpowers in the region. We emphasized that we are against the interference of the superpowers in the affairs of the oppressed nations. The prime minister added: They also have a position similar to ours and they have a more independent position compared to the rest of the countries in that region. He said: There were some qualitive differences in what the chairman of the Korean People's Assembly observed in Iran during his visit and what he had heard before. He was amazed at the revolutionary attitude that exists throughout our society.

The prime minister added: During this visit, the principles of economic cooperation also were discussed and it was decided that the relations between the two countries should be expanded in various spheres, including the industrial sphere. He added: During the past year, we started some exchanges with North Korea and, God willing, during the next 2 weeks an economic delegation from Korea will come to Iran to continue the discussions so that various fields for cooperation can be explored.

Concerning his me ting with the Turkish delegation and the connection between this visit and the imposed war, Musavi said: We described our position concerning Iraq, saying our forces are fully prepared to deliver crushing blows to Saddam's regime and that the war will continue until the complete realization of our conditions. He also said: In these discussions, the economic issues started between the two countries were discussed.

Concerning the expulsion of the Zionist regime from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and referring to remarks by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the prime minister said: The government supports this stand and if the various aspects of the issue are clearly defined, the government will allocate necessary funds to make up for the problem. [as heard]

He said: Our country can assist in driving Israel and America out of these organizations. The amount involved in connection with the expulsion of Israel from the IAEA is not considerable and our country alone is able to undertake it. He said: In connection with progressive countries, we will be able to make arrangements to fill the existing vacuum so that these organizations do not come under the domination of superpowers due to their financial wealth.

America should know that the period of its domination when it could rule the world with its money and force has come to an end. It should accept the bitter truth that the threats it makes to keep Israel in the United Nations and among the nations of the world will be the beginning of its own long-term ruin and destruction.

REPORTAGE ON TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

Talks With Khamene'i

LD201828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] The Turkish minister of foreign affairs met and had talks with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic, this afternoon. The Central News Unit reports that during the meeting, also attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and a number of diplomatic officials from the two countries, the Turkish foreign affairs minister expressed pleasure at his visit to Iran and his meeting with our country's officials, saying: I am very happy for the firm relations that exist between the two neighboring countries of Iran and Turkey, which expand daily. He added: We believe the Islamic Republic of Iran daily is becoming more stable and progressive. Cooperation between Iran and Turkey is important and useful not only to the two countries but also to the region. Referring to developments in the region, the Turkish foreign affairs minister said: The developments being followed by the president of the republic also are being followed by our country's president who is paying attention to all incidents taking place in the Middle East.

Referring to the friendly relations between the two countries and expressing pleasure over their expansion, President Khamene'i said: We believe it is essential for neighboring countries that share culture, religion and interests to come increasingly close together in the economic, political and cultural fields and we are decisively pursuing this issue.

Referring to the aggression committed by the Zionist, Ba'thist Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said: At stake in this war are the honor and the valuable revolution of a nation, something our nation will not give up easily. Referring to the repeated visits undertaken by the peace missions, Khamene'i said: We have not opposed the attempts made by the peace missions and by those people undertaking efforts to this end and we have even welcomed them, but it is the Iraqi regime that is imposing this war and its continuation on us and itself.

Meeting With Velayati

LD202120 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] The second round of negotiations of the Turkish delegation, headed by the Turkish foreign minister, Ilter Turkmen, with the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Velayati, regarding the political and economic spheres of the two countries, were held in Tehran today.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Mr Velayati, in connection with the bilaterally signed agreement said: The conclusion of this agreement renewed the aerial transportation pact of 1972 between the two countries.

The Turkish foreign minister expressed the hope that with the conclusion of this agreement the economic relations of both countries will be further expanded.

In connection with the imposed war, Mr Velayati said: During this meeting it has been emphasized that this war had been imposed upon Iran and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will fight on as a just defense so that the rights of the Iranian Muslim nation can be fully realized.

In this meeting, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Velayati, while referring to the interference by the superpowers in the region, said: The occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union has caused the global arrogance to have active presence and influence in the region.

He also said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has clear conditions in the face of the Afghan issue which go asunder: Withdrawal of Soviet forces, return of refugees, noninterference of foreign forces and the right for determination of their destiny should be in the hands of the Afghan Muslim people.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran then elaborated on the plots of world arrogance in the region and said: America intends to jeopardize the security of the Persian Gulf, whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran and other regional states are capable of safeguarding the regional security.

In connection with the aggression of the Zionists against Lebanon, Mr Velayati said: This invasion has been launched with the support of America and its real aim is to cause Zionism to have hegemony over Lebanon and other Islamic countries. The Iranian foreign minister also stressed that the only way for confrontation with the Zionist regime will be the unity of Muslims.

Transportation Agreement

GF201724 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA -- The revised text of an air transportation agreement was signed between the Islamic Republic and Turkey during the second round of negotiations between Foreign Minister Velayati and his Turkish counterpart, Ilter Turkmen, here this afternoon.

Following the meeting, the Turkish minister hoped that the signing of the agreement would further expand and strengthen mutual economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Velayati also said that the agreement was a revised text of a former one signed in 1972 between the two countries.

He continued that issues relating to the Middle East, the Zionist aggression up southern Lebanon and the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet forces were discussed in this meeting.

Dr. Velayati also said that his Turkish counterpart called for the discontinuation of the imposed Iraqi war and he, in reply, reminded that the war had been imposed upon the Islamic Republic and the Iranian combatants were engaged in a legitimate defence to achieve their justified rights and would resist until the complete achievement of their rights.

The Turkish foreign minister arrived here Tuesday heading a delegation at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart to discuss political, economic and commercial ties.

During its stay here, the Turkish delegation has so far met and conferred with Iranian Prime Minister Musavi and Dr. Velayati.

This morning, the delegation visited the Behesht-e Zahra cemetery and paid their respects to the martyrs of the Islamic revolution.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,085

LD201734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Communique No 1,085 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued on all western fronts of the country; on other fronts firing was sporadic. On all fronts, the proud combatants of Islam, returning Saddamist fire, inflicted losses on the Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

At dawn yesterday the weakening Saddamist forces attempted an offensive on one of the western fronts of the country but, thanks to the efforts of the heroes of Islam and the heavy-artillery fire of the ground forces, the enemy's offensive was stopped and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries, suffering losses and casualties, were pinned down in their original positions.

Artillery fire by the combatants of the ground forces damaged the Naft Khaneh oil installations in Iraq.

On the Marivan front, the combatants of Islam -- who are ready to give their lives while penetrating enemy positions and carrying out patrol operations -- inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

Exchanges of fire were sporadic on the southern fronts. On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the throes of the gendarmerie and the navy, returning fire on the Saddamist positions on the other side of the Arvand Rud, silenced the fire of the Iraqi forces and inflicted losses and casualties.

Yesterday the Saddamist criminals, pouring artillery fire on the city of Abadan, wounded three of our beloved compatriots and destroyed several houses.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI AIRCRAFT BOMB DEHLORAN 19 OCTOBER

LD201900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Aircraft of the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime this morning twice violated the airspace of the city of Dehloran, but before managing to carry out any operations they were faced with intense fire from the area's air defense units and forced to flee.

According to an IRNA report, intruding Iraqi aircraft raided the city of Dehloran yesterday with incendiary bombs, which resulted in the outbreak of fire in the city and caused losses.

According to this report, yesterday at noon, Saddam's criminal army again raided the Dehloran area with its aircraft; as a result of this bestial action the nomadic tribes of the region suffered losses.

BORDER UNITS ORGANIZED TO COMBAT SMUGGLERS

GF210720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Oct 82

[Text] Nine border battalions have been organized in the eastern region of the country in order to safeguard the Islamic borders of the country.

Colonel Kucheckzadeh, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Gendarmerie, went to Zehedan to participate in a 5-day seminar. At the end of the seminar he told IRNA that the aim of the formation of the border battalions is to combat smuggling and protect the borders of the country against foreign transgressions.

He also explained the results of the seminar held for gendarmerie commanders and the officials of political-ideological offices of the districts, saying that the seminar studied various training topics and ideological military operations.

He further said that priority was given to manpower and the mobilization of gendarmerie personnel in the deprived areas where there is constant contact with border violators, such as in Sistan va Baluchestan. He said that we hope to adopt solid measures in this respect.

On military operations, he emphasized that as regards the war, we are fighting the enemy together with our other Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and have been united with these forces in the fighting in Kordestan and other inflicted areas and we hope, God willing, to destroy the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Republic whether internally or externally.

9 VILLAGES 'PURGED'; 60 'INSURGENTS' KILLED

GF201735 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 20 Oct 82

[Text] Hamzeh military hqs, Oct. 20, IRNA -- Reports reaching here said that nine more villages in western Iran were purged of counterrevolutionary elements during successful police operations which led to the liberation of the village of Rabt, 10 kms from Sar Dasht in W. Azarbayjan Province, last week.

In this operation, 60 insurgents were killed and many others wounded.

AFGHAN REBELS KILL 40 SOVIET SOLDIERS IN HERAT

GF191916 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] Mashhad, Oct. 19, IRNA -- Reports reaching here today said 40 Soviet soldiers were killed in a confrontation with Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in Herat Province of Afghanistan last week.

The Muslim combatants meanwhile destroyed two army tanks, one oil tanker, and another army jeep, and also seized enemy's munitions.

SOVIET SOLDIER ON USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

GF191950 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Oct 82

[Text] A Soviet soldier captured by the Afghan Muslim mujahidin has admitted that the Soviet forces in Afghanistan are using various kinds of highly lethal chemical weapons. The Soviet captive, (Motsikov), who was an enlisted man in the Soviet paratroopers regiment in Bamian Province, said he saw with his own eyes how all living creatures and agricultural crops were destroyed as a result of using chemical bombs against the positions of the Muslim mujahidin.